

American Cowboy

THE BEST CHUCKWAGON COOK-OFFS Page 22
Lifestyle • Travel • People

Top Hands

Some wranglers are a cut above

Page 68

PLUS:

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DISPLAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5, 2011

Rank & File: Chuckwagon cook-offs

Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium

October 7-9

Ruidoso, N.M.

cowboysymposium.org

Fort Sisseton Historical Festival

June 1-3, 2012

Lake City, S.D.

gfp.sd.gov/fort-sisseton

Chandler Chuckwagon Cook-off

November 11-12, Chandler, Ariz.

chandleraz.gov/chuckwagon

Meat of the matter

RISE TO THE TOP

Cooks compete in meat, potatoes, beans, bread, and dessert divisions, plus in a Sunday morning Biscuits and Gravy breakfast competition.

Making dough

CASH AND CARRY

\$12,000 in prize money (and several coveted prize buckles) are on the line.

SEASONED PROS

In addition to winning for their cooking skills, wagon crews can take home prizes for Best Wagon, judged for authenticity and overall camp organization.

PIECE OF THE PIE

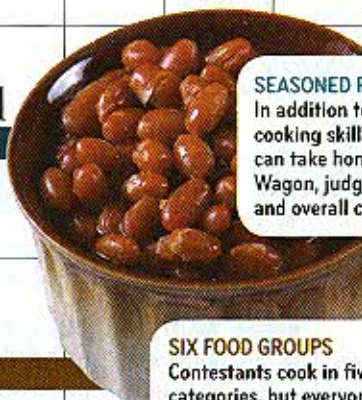
\$3,000 is total prize money is up for grabs.

SIX FOOD GROUPS

Contestants cook in five main categories, but everyone guns for best "overall meal."

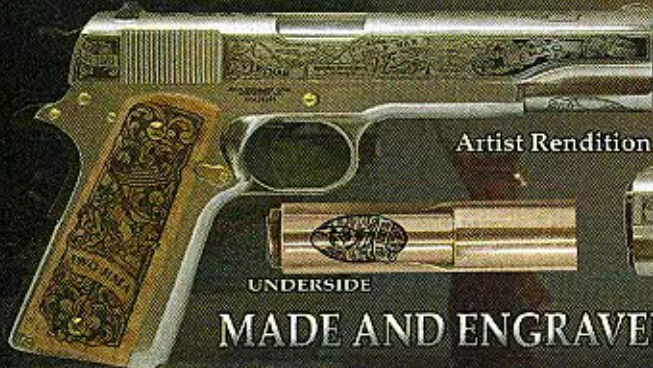
SIDE OF GREENS

Cooks dish up their best meals for a chance at bragging rights and \$5,000 in total prize money.



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The big picture

MOUNTAIN MIXER

This chuckwagon event is part of the 22nd-annual Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium, held at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track in southern New Mexico.

KITCHEN PATROL

Part of the 34th-annual Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, this event celebrates the frontier army outpost.

RANCH LIFE

Admission is free to this Chandler Museum event at the Tumbleweed Ranch.

After-supper activities

IN THE SWING

Wander around five stages of entertainment, featuring Western swing and cowboy music. Mel Tillis performs Oct. 6.

ALL DOLLED UP

Learn period dancing at the Officer's Quarters on Saturday then put on your finery for the costume ball later that night.

ADD SOME SPICE

Enjoy the cowboy sounds of headliners Pioneer Pepper and the Sunset Pioneers.

Learn some skills

ROPES AND SMOKE

This festival offers 144 vendors, plus rope-making and Dutch Oven cooking demonstrations.

STEP BACK IN TIME

Visitors go back in time with shooting demonstrations, calvary drills, and living history reenactments.

OLD-SCHOOL COOKING

Celebrating Arizona's 2012 centennial, the museum features a new exhibit of historic chuckwagon photos from around the state. Demonstrations also include blacksmithing and candle dipping.

TEXT BY LINDSAY AFFLECK

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